

INCOMING TELEGRAM *59* Department of State

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E X D I S

1. AS DEPT AWARE, PRIMIN KY MADE STATEMENTS AT GUAM AGAIN INDICATING GVN COMMITMENT TO POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, INCLUDING APPLICATION TO FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. KY SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT HE HAS ORDERED PROVINCE CHIEFS TO ALLOW CHIEU HOI RETURNEES TO RUN FOR OFFICE IN VILLAGE AND HAMLET ELECTIONS. TERMS OF PROCLAMATION ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TO BE ISSUED AT TIME OF PROMULGATION OF THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD GIVE US FURTHER INDICATIONS OF GVN'S SPECIFIC INTENTIONS.

2. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH VIETAMESE LEADERS, PARTICULARLY CA DEPUTIES INVOLVED IN FRAMING ELECTORAL LAWS, WE WILL HAVE IN MIND DEPT FORMULA

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 21162 S E C R E T
OF "OPENING THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO ALL CANDIDATES PREPARED TO OPERATE WITHIN THE LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM AND EXCEPTING ONLY THOSE WHO CONTINUE ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT THE OVERTHROW OF THE DULY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT BY FORCE OR ARMS OR SUBVERSION".

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Dean Joubert* DATE *10/5/81*

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE *S*

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State *REFOL 15-5 VIETS*
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CONFIDENTIAL SAIGON 21307

REF: STATE 162168 - *Pol 14 VIETS*

1. CBS GOT THEIR REPORT FROM VIETNAMESE CAMERAMAN WHO, WHILE TAKING DY'S PICTURE ON THE RUN, ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER IF HE WAS GOING TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR "PRESIDENT. ACCORDING TO THE CAMERAMAN, KY REPLIED "I HAVE NO PLANS TO RUN, BUT THE ARMED FORCES COUNCIL MAY POSSIBLY NOMINATE GENERAL THIEU." THE CAMERAMAN REPORTEDLY CHECKED WITH A RADIO VIET NAM CORRESPONDENT WHO SAID THAT HE HEARD THE SAME THING.

2. APPARENTLY MOST OF CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT DID NOT RPT NOT HEAR THE ABOVE EXCHANGE. VIETNAMESE JOURNALIST PRESENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT KY MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT. VIET NAM PRESS ACCOUNT DOES NOT CONTAIN THE REMARK, AND LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VIET NAM PRESS VERSION OF WHAT WAS SAID.

3. FOLLOWING IS VIET NAM PRESS REPORT OF KY'S REMARKS WHICH, WHILE NOT COMPLETE, IS THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF WHAT WAS SAID:

4. QUOTE: ARMED FORCES COUNCIL TO MEET MONDAY TO REVIEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION

PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE ARMED FORCES COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED TO MEET NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 27) TO REVIEW THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. TO A QUESTION FROM A VP CORRESPONDENT IN AN INTERVIEW GRANTED TO THE PRESS AT INDEPENDENCE PALACE THIS MORNING, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SINCE THE ARMED FORCES COUNCIL ARE NOT A POLITICAL PARTY, THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO NAME THEIR CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR ELECTION. ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER KY, THERE IS, HOWEVER NO GROUND TO THE RUMOR THAT TWO MILITARY MEN WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

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REGARDING THE DATE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ELECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 3, THE INFORMATION AND OPEN-ARMS MINISTRY IS RECONSIDERING THIS PROBLEM AND THE ELECTION MAY TAKE PLACE

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SOONER. MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN BAO TRI CONCURRED BY SAYING THAT DEPENDING ON THE PREPARATIONS, THE ELECTION MAY BE HELD SOONER THAN SCHEDULED. ON THIS OCCASION, PRIME MINISTER KY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IF THE DATE OF THE ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT IS SEPTEMBER 3, THE DATE FOR SENATE ELECTION WILL BE SEPTEMBER 4 AND THAT FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OCTOBER 1, 1967. ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION CONCERNING THE PRIME-MINISTER FUTURE OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID "MANY AMERICANS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MY TRIP TO THE U.S. HOWEVER I WHALL MAKE MY FINAL DECISION AFTER THE ELECTIONS ARE COMPLETED. END QUOTE
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NOTE: ADVANCE COPY SENT S/S-0 3-25-67 9:17 AM.

PASSED W.H., DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA 9:30 AM 3-25-67.

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